

Fertilizer and Bullets

Consider the following sequence of events:

The United States criticizes allies who ship war materiel and supplies to North Vietnam, thus aiding North Vietnamese aggression against South Vietnam.

Agriculture Secretary Orville L. Freeman, on his return from an inspection trip in South Vietnam says of the war: "Fertilizer is just as important as bullets."

It is learned that the United States Commerce Department has quietly approved export to Russia of advanced technical know-how to build and run six fertilizer plants.

The increased Soviet capacity will thus per-

mit the Russians greatly to increase fertilizer shipments it has been making to North Vietnam.

Unless we are mistaken, and we don't believe we are, it would appear the United States Commerce Department is, by Orville Freeman's standards, underwriting the killing of American soldiers in South Vietnam.

We can't see any justification for a policy that would kill our troops in South Vietnam either directly or indirectly.

Instead of building bridges to peace, it appears the Commerce Department is building bridges for the North Vietnamese to invade South Vietnam.